

HB 2178 with HCA 1 -- DRIVER'S EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Higdon

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 7 to 5.

This bill requires all public high schools, including charter schools, to offer a one credit driver's education course as an elective credit. Driver's education will not be required for high school graduation.

HCA #1: This amendment establishes the "Driver Education Training Fund." The fund will consist of money collected for registration renewals of cars, trailers, motorcycles, boats, and other items as described within the amendment. The fee will add an additional \$2.00 to registration renewals.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say schools started phasing out driver's education about six to seven years ago. The fatality rates have been slowly increasing. Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of teenage wrecks and fatalities.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Higdon and Tony Shepherd.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

OTHERS: Others testifying on the bill say the fiscal note is about \$10 million. There are 611 high schools within the state that do not teach driver's education and there are only 312 people certified to teach it. Insurance companies do not offer discounts like they used to.

Testifying on the bill was the Missouri Association of School Administrators.